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SUBJECT: Cancellation of Project GUSTO

1. This notice is being circulated to advise all personnel associated with Project GUSTO that, effective 31 August 1959, all contracts pertaining to the development of a Super-Hustler reconnaissance aircraft were cancelled and the program was indefinitely deferred.
2. Recent budgetary reductions effecting the production of B-58-B aircraft, considered essential to the GUSTO program, has prompted this decision. As you are all aware, the Super-Hustler concept called for the permanent release of four (4) B-58 vehicles from the inventory of the Strategic Air Command to serve as launch vehicles. The reduced production of this type aircraft has, in turn, understandably forced the Commander, Strategic Air Command to state his reluctance to deplete the inventory of aircraft vital to the defense of this nation.
3. In anticipation of the decision to eliminate production of the B-58-B, a study was undertaken to determine the feasibility of using other types of existing aircraft as substitute launch vehicles. This study has determined that all existing aircraft either cannot meet the design criteria or would be too costly to modify for operational use.
4. Inasmuch as the Super-Hustler concept did incorporate design features mandatory in the development of any aircraft used solely for military reconnaissance purposes, Convair has agreed to continue its studies in this area under corporate sponsorship. These studies will be monitored by certain Air Force personnel who will be provided with periodic progress reports.
5. All personnel are reminded that the security associated with Project GUSTO continues to remain in force, as the defense needs of the nation may force a consolidated effort leading to actual production at some future date. The feasibility of reactivating this program may hinge entirely on the security that has been maintained. Each individual must, therefore, consider the program temporarily cancelled rather than abandoned and must continue to maintain its highly classified status.

Attachment to: GUS-0384

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